

I am grateful, Mr. Speaker, that just outside the halls of this historic Chamber, religious leaders of great faith from all over this country, Baptists, Methodists, Jews, Episcopalians and many other faiths will speak out against the Istook amendment, because they believe as Jefferson and Madison did that the best way to ruin religion is to politicize it. That is what the Istook amendment will do.

I urge parents, people and Members across this body and America to oppose the Istook amendment.

AGAINST MFN STATUS FOR CHINA

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, most Americans know and understand that one's actions speak louder than words, but yesterday the President proposed giving permanent most favored nation trading status to Communist China saying that it was, and I quote, clearly in the best interest of this Nation.

We need to look past these words and check out their actions. It was just 18 months ago that our President said, and I quote, not a single, solitary missile was pointed at American children. We now know that China with the help of this administration has at least 13 nuclear missiles aimed at the United States and our children.

In 1990, China provided Iraq with the chemicals needed for a hydrogen bomb. China supplied Pakistan with a weapons grade plutonium reactor in 1991. Despite China's claim that they were not making any nuclear deals with Iran, China gave Iran a nuclear reactor in 1994. Now we are told that China is the single most important supplier of weapons of mass destruction in the world.

MFN status is supposed to be reserved for our best friends, our allies, the countries we are trying to help. Communist China is not our friend.

VOTE NO ON THE ISTOOK AMENDMENT

(Ms. WOOLSEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, am I a church member? Yes, I am. Is my church important to me? Absolutely. Do I go to church as often as possible and get the good community that is there for me? Absolutely. Do I want the Federal Government to be involved in my church? No. Do I want the government to prescribe prayer in our schools? No. Today we allow already for Bible groups, individual prayer and campus meetings at our schools. That is absolute. We cannot pretend that is not already possible.

Today we will vote on a resolution that would undermine the first amendment, undermine religious freedom.

Today support Madison and Jefferson and vote for religious freedom and against school sponsored prayer. Do not politicize religion. Vote no on the Istook amendment.

PENTAGON REPORTS NATIONAL SECURITY HARMED BY TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY TO CHINA

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, it does not take a rocket scientist to know that helping Communist China with its rocket technology is not in our national interest.

According to published reports, the Pentagon concluded in a May 1997 report that "national security has been harmed" by the transfer of sensitive computer technology to Communist China's military industrial complex.

Where is that May 1997 Pentagon report, you may ask?

Well, here is another key document, a document with critical information that Congress does not possess and which Congress has been told we will never see.

What has the White House response been about this May 1997 Pentagon report? Denials, explanations?

No. We get silence. Or we get spin. Silence and spin. That is about all the American people get anymore. However, this crisis is about national security. This issue puts every American at risk. This makes the world a more dangerous place to live. It is a very serious issue. We deserve a full report.

BUDGET RESOLUTION DOES NOT ADD UP

(Mr. FAZIO of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, the Senate passed its budget resolution over 2 months ago. Under the rules of the House, we should have passed a budget resolution at least by the 15th of April. So we come to the floor very late today, and one would think at this late date, we would be prepared with a tight, consensus budget. In fact, that is not the case. We have a \$24 billion black hole in this budget resolution the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KASICH) will present today. We double count cuts in food stamp administration, we double count cuts in veterans spending. In fact, unless we can find alternatives to using these cuts twice, we will pass a fraudulent budget or end up cutting these programs for more than any of us intend.

The New York Times said of this resolution when it came to the Budget committee that "it fails the basic integrity test and that the House should vote it down, demanding instead a budget that is real, not rigged." I agree, Mr. Speaker. We are not ready,

even at this late date, with the Committee on Appropriations waiting in the wings to deal with a budget resolution that just does not add up. Let us protect Social Security and not spend any of the surplus until we have found a solution to the baby boom bulge and bring the Social Security fund into balance.

SUPPORT THE BUDGET RESOLUTION

(Ms. DUNN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, today I want to urge my colleagues to support the 1999 budget resolution. Building on our success in balancing the budget, this plan outlines the next steps to empower families so that they can keep more of their hard-earned money.

By reducing government spending by one penny over 5 years, that is just one-fifth of a penny each year for 5 years out of each dollar, we can improve the quality of life in America in three important ways. First, we can continue to pay down the national debt so that our constituents pay less in interest for loans, and our economy remains strong.

Secondly, we can lower taxes so that Americans keep more of their money to support their families or plan for the future. Today our citizens pay nearly 40 percent from their paycheck each month to support the government. I think that is a very unfair tax burden.

Third, we can protect and modernize the Social Security system that gives Americans from every generation the peace of mind about their retirement years. The Republican approach is a good approach. I urge my colleagues to support it.

THE DEMOCRATIC BUDGET

(Mr. WYNN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the budget. Well, actually two budgets. There is on the one hand the Republican extreme budget, a budget that is irresponsible, a budget that contains a \$24 billion black hole of unspecified cuts, a budget that is weighted once again toward the wealthy. On the other hand, you have the Democratic budget. It is a balanced budget, but it focuses on people.

Why do I object to the Republican budget? First, it fails to protect Social Security. It talks about a better way of life, but the administration and the Democrats have said the first thing we ought to do is put every penny of the surplus toward protecting Social Security. That is the people's budget. That is the Democratic perspective.

Second, the Republican budget fails to invest in education. The thing that is most important for our Nation's future is to invest in education, smaller

classes, schools that are in proper repair, schools that are ready to access the Internet. We need to invest there. The Republicans do not see it that way. They have a narrow view that makes draconian cuts in important programs. They do not protect our important investments. I believe we ought to reject the extreme Republican perspective.

UNLV'S NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP GOLF TEAM

(Mr. ENSIGN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to congratulate the golf team from the University of Nevada Las Vegas who last week brought the national championship home to Nevada. The Rebel golf team won the tournament in style, shooting an NCAA record 34 under par as a team.

College golf might not capture the attention of sports fans across the country like basketball or football does, but I can assure my colleagues that these young athletes train just as hard and strive to win just as much as any other competitors. Senior Bill Lunde, juniors Charley Hoffman and Chris Berry, sophomore Jeremy Anderson and freshman Scott Lander not only excelled under the intense pressure of the national championship but conducted themselves with honor and sportsmanship. Head coach Dwayne Knight has realized a goal he stated 10 years ago when he told our community he would build a national championship team.

I want to congratulate the UNLV Rebel golf team. They have made the city of Las Vegas and the great State of Nevada proud and are carrying forward the strong tradition of athletic success at UNLV.

VOTE NO ON ISTOOK AMENDMENT

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, there is no more sacred right that we have in this country than the right each and every American takes when they go into their house of worship. The first amendment has made this Nation unique. I stand here very proudly acknowledging and embracing the uniqueness of the American flag and what it provides for us. Freedom. Freedom to sing "Jesus loves me this I know." Freedom to cross one's heart, to pay attention to one's orthodox views, whatever one might believe in. We applaud it.

That is why I stand today humbly before this House asking for a resounding vote against the Istook amendment, for it is not religious freedom, it is religious oppression. For our children today pray every day in their schools.

They have organized prayer groups around the Nation. I would venture to say that everyone who takes any kind of exam in school, I would say to them, you had better pray. Pray in the school. Pray at home. Prayer is available. Freedom of religion is available. The Istook amendment will take that away from you.

UNFAIRNESS IN TAX CODE: MARRIAGE TAX PENALTY

(Mr. WELLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this year's balanced budget. I think these questions best state why:

Do Americans feel that it is right that the average working married couple pays more in taxes just because they are married? Do Americans feel that it is fair, is it right, that 21 million married working couples pay on the average of \$1,400 more in higher taxes than an identical couple that lives together outside of marriage? Of course not.

Americans recognize the marriage tax penalty is wrong and we need to correct the marriage tax penalty. Twenty-one million married working couples, \$1,400 more in higher taxes. \$1,400 is one year's tuition at Joliet Junior College in the district that I represent. It is 3 months of day care at a local day care center.

This budget, the budget crafted by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KASICH) makes elimination of the marriage tax penalty priority number one, helping 21 million married working families who just happen to be married and just because they are married, they pay higher taxes. Let us pass this budget. It deserves bipartisan support.

BUDGET RESOLUTION IS NOT BASED ON BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, today we have real irony, because we are both going to vote on prayer in the schools and a budget that cuts Medicare and support and medical care for those less fortunate in our society.

This budget was put together with one hearing. They wanted to put \$10 billion in cuts on Medicare. Last night, in the middle of the night, they took that out and they have now gone after the poor.

I think the majority really ought to have had some religious education, because the Bible says, in Matthew 25, verse 35, "When I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in." Then it goes on to say:

And the king replied, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did to one of the

least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."

Mr. Speaker, it is nice to talk about prayer in the schools, but you ought to have public policy that reflects what you believe. This budget that goes after the poor, that goes after the sick, that goes after the disabled is not a budget based on biblical principles.

SUPPORT THE BUDGET RESOLUTION

(Mr. TIAHRT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, we have heard a lot of talk about the extremist budget by the extremists in the House, the radical Republicans.

Let us take a little walk down history's lane. One hundred thirty years ago, the opponents of a better America were calling the Republicans radical. They were calling them extreme.

Mr. Speaker, it was the radical Republicans who fought for and succeeded in passing the 13th amendment to abolish slavery, the 14th amendment to guarantee the right to life, liberty and the ownership of property, and the 15th amendment to give all citizens the right to vote. They were called radical Republicans, with extremist ideas.

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So when you hear the opponents of a better America say the Republican budget is extreme, it attacks the poor, remember history, remember our heritage. It is not extreme to protect Social Security, it is not extreme to limit the growth of the Federal Government, it is not extreme to provide a little tax relief for Americans. It is just common sense.

So I urge my colleagues to support the budget resolution.

SHOW US YOUR CUTS

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, the Republican budget is a sham, rosy scenarios in cuts that will be named later, a plan that would unravel the bipartisan balanced budget agreement. But just do not take my word for it. Here is what other Republicans are saying about the GOP smoke and mirrors.

Quote: "I can tell you there is no way for this committee to carry out its business in the next 5 years under the Kasich plan." That is the chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Here is what the Washington Post says about the Republican budget, and I quote: "To promise an election year tax cut on the strength of unlikely spending cuts to be named later, all the while preaching fiscal responsibility, would be a triple fraud."

Let us end the triple fraud. We know where the Republican cuts will come, if